

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 9:45 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 10, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Continued Importance of the Violence Against Women Act."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.,

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 3 p.m.,

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

The Committee will meet in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Allegations of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Security Contracts at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 70, S. 407.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 407) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 407

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

[This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009".]

**SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

[(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2009, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

[(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

[(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

[(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

[(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

[(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

[(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

[(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

[(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2009, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

[(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

[(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

[(e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b), as increased under subsection (a), not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2010.]

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009".*

**SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2009, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit

amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2009, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b), as increased under subsection (a), not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2010.

**SEC. 3. CODIFICATION OF 2008 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

(a) VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Section 1114 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$117” and inserting “\$123”;
- (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$230” and inserting “\$243”;
- (3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$356” and inserting “\$376”;
- (4) in subsection (d), by striking “\$512” and inserting “\$541”;
- (5) in subsection (e), by striking “\$728” and inserting “\$770”;
- (6) in subsection (f), by striking “\$921” and inserting “\$974”;
- (7) in subsection (g), by striking “\$1,161” and inserting “\$1,228”;
- (8) in subsection (h), by striking “\$1,349” and inserting “\$1,427”;
- (9) in subsection (i), by striking “\$1,517” and inserting “\$1,604”;
- (10) in subsection (j), by striking “\$2,527” and inserting “\$2,673”;
- (11) in subsection (k)—
  - (A) by striking “\$91” both places it appears and inserting “\$96”;
  - (B) by striking “\$3,145” and “\$4,412” and inserting “\$3,327” and “\$4,667”, respectively;
- (12) in subsection (l), by striking “\$3,145” and inserting “\$3,327”;
- (13) in subsection (m), by striking “\$3,470” and inserting “\$3,671”;
- (14) in subsection (n), by striking “\$3,948” and inserting “\$4,176”;
- (15) in subsections (o) and (p), by striking “\$4,412” each place it appears and inserting “\$4,667”;
- (16) in subsection (r), by striking “\$1,893” and “\$2,820” and inserting “\$2,002” and “\$2,983”, respectively; and

- (17) in subsection (s), by striking “\$2,829” and inserting “\$2,993”.
- (b) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Section 1115(I) of such title is amended—
  - (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$142” and inserting “\$150”;
  - (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$245” and “\$71” and inserting “\$259” and “\$75”, respectively;
  - (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “\$96” and “\$71” and inserting “\$101” and “\$75”, respectively;
  - (4) in subparagraph (D), by striking “\$114” and inserting “\$120”;
  - (5) in subparagraph (E), by striking “\$271” and inserting “\$286”;
  - (6) in subparagraph (F), by striking “\$227” and inserting “\$240”.
- (c) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 1162 of such title is amended by striking “\$677” and inserting “\$716”.
- (d) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.—
  - (1) NEW LAW DIC.—Section 1311(a) of such title is amended—
    - (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$1,091” and inserting “\$1,154”;
    - (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$233” and inserting “\$246”.
  - (2) OLD LAW DIC.—The table in paragraph (3) of such section is amended to read as follows:

Pay grade	Monthly rate	Pay grade	Monthly rate
E-1 .....	\$1,154	W-4 .....	\$1,380
E-2 .....	\$1,154	O-1 .....	\$1,219
E-3 .....	\$1,154	O-2 .....	\$1,260
E-4 .....	\$1,154	O-3 .....	\$1,347
E-5 .....	\$1,154	O-4 .....	\$1,427
E-6 .....	\$1,154	O-5 .....	\$1,571
E-7 .....	\$1,194	O-6 .....	\$1,771
E-8 .....	\$1,260	O-7 .....	\$1,912
E-9 .....	\$1,314	O-8 .....	\$2,100
W-1 .....	\$1,219	O-9 .....	\$2,246
W-2 .....	\$1,267	O-10 .....	\$2,463
W-3 .....	\$1,305		

<sup>1</sup> If the veteran served as sergeant major of the Army, senior enlisted advisor of the Navy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, or master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse's rate shall be \$1,419.

<sup>2</sup> If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse's rate shall be \$2,643.”.

(3) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR CHILDREN OR DISABILITY.—Section 1311 of such title is amended—

- (A) in subsection (b), by striking “\$271” and inserting “\$286”;

- (B) in subsection (c), by striking “\$271” and inserting “\$286”;

- (C) in subsection (d), by striking “\$128” and inserting “\$135”.

(e) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR CHILDREN.—

(1) DIC WHEN NO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Section 1313(a) of such title is amended—

- (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$462” and inserting “\$488”;

- (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$663” and inserting “\$701”;

- (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$865” and inserting “\$915”;

- (D) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$865” and “\$165” and inserting “\$915” and “\$174”, respectively.

(2) SUPPLEMENTAL DIC FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN.—Section 1314 of such title is amended—

- (A) in subsection (a), by striking “\$271” and inserting “\$286”;

- (B) in subsection (b), by striking “\$462” and inserting “\$488”;

- (C) in subsection (c), by striking “\$230” and inserting “\$243”.

(f) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO PARENTS.—Section 1315 is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)—
  - (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$163” and inserting “\$569”;

- (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$4,038” and inserting “\$13,456”;

- (2) in subsection (c)—

- (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$115” and inserting “\$412”;

- (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$4,038” and inserting “\$13,456”;

- (3) in subsection (d)—

- (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$109” and inserting “\$387”;

- (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$5,430” and inserting “\$18,087”;

- (4) in subsection (g), by striking “\$85” and inserting “\$308”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 1, 2008.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; that the committee-reported title amendment be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any state-

ments related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 407), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The title amendment was agreed to, as follows:

A Bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2009, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, to codify increases in the rates of such compensation that were effective as of December 1, 2008, and for other purposes.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—  
S. 1122

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill S. 1122